

REMARKS

Claims 1-26 are pending in the present Application. The claims have not been amended and are presented here merely for the convenience of the Examiner. Reconsideration and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Interview Summary

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for extending the courtesy of an interview. During the interview Applicants' representative, Patricia DeSimone, and Examiner Boykin discussed the term "domain" as used in reference to thermoplastic compositions. Ms. DeSimone provided TEM images to aid in explanation. Claims 1-26 were discussed as well as U.S. Patent No. 6,676,852.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter the applicant regards as the invention. As discussed during the interview a domain is a region of a thermoplastic composition that consists essentially of a material that is different from the material around it. These difference in the domain material and the surrounding material (usually referred to as the matrix) can be visually detected by transmission electron microscopy (TEM), scanning electron microscopy (SEM) or both according to standard methods. In the instant case, siloxane regions of the copolymer coalesce to form domains in the composition. In light of this information applicants respectfully assert that the claims are not indefinite.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 1-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,676,852 to Brown et al. (Brown). Brown discloses a composition comprising 50-99% by weight of a thermoplastic resin or blend of thermoplastic resins, 1-50% by weight of a graft copolymer, and a phosphorescent pigment. (Abstract) Suitable thermoplastics include polycarbonate and blends of polycarbonate with siloxane-polycarbonate block copolymers among other possibilities. (Col. 3, lines 46-55)

The pending claims are directed to a composition having embedded polysiloxane domains with an average domain size between 20 and 45 nanometers or a composition comprising two polycarbonate/poly(diorganosiloxane) copolymers.

As shown in the examples compositions comprising a polycarbonate and a polycarbonate/polysiloxane copolymer demonstrate average domain sizes of 45 nanometers and above (Table 3a) and average domain size actually increases with increasing dilution by the polycarbonate. In contrast, Table 3b shows that compositions of two polycarbonate/polysiloxane copolymers have average domain sizes less than 45 nanometers. Additionally, ternary blends of two polycarbonate/polysiloxane copolymers and a polycarbonate also show average domain sizes less than 45 nanometers (Table 3c).

As the can be seen from the examples in the pending application an average domain size between 20 and 45 nanometers does not necessarily flow from a composition comprising a polycarbonate and a polysiloxane/polycarbonate copolymer. Accordingly Brown does not anticipate the pending claims.

It is believed that the foregoing amendments and remarks fully comply with the Office Action and that the claims herein should now be allowable to Applicants. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance is requested.

If there are any additional charges with respect to this Amendment or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 07-0893.

Respectfully submitted,

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